

## Historic, archived document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.





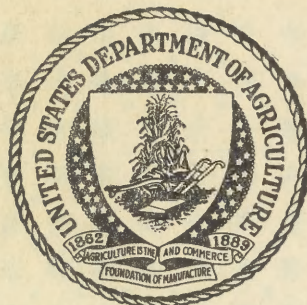
282.176  
B43B

*s. a. Beni Rustici Crotonesi*

Grateful to the U. S. Mission  
Relief to Italy



UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
LIBRARY



BOOK NUMBER

282.176  
B43B

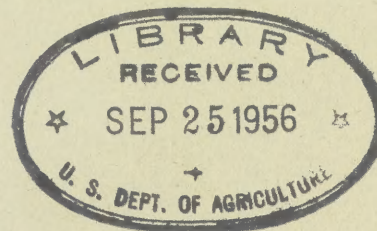
912329



In the agricultural area of Crotona (Calabria) a huge and efficient task of land reclamation has been initiated without any boisterous advertising.

This brief post-war photographic documentation confirms how the Italian Government's intervention in favour of Southern Italy is indispensable.

A.U.S.A., (U.S. Relief Mission to Italy), has already intervened showing the way to E.R.P. which as stated by Mr. Lovett, shall not be able to ignore the great agricultural problems of Southern Italy.











1946

1947

In 1943 the river Neto, which borders the Beni Rustici Crotonesi land estate for 12 Kilometres, breaks the banks in several points and flows freely over cultivated lands, destroying sown fields, ruining the internal roads of communication, filling the draining irrigation canals, entering the peasants' houses.

These lands, now dried, shall be returned to production with the use of AUSA funds.











1946

1947

The river's high levels used to flood the countryside thus paralysing all activity.

Malaria prevailed a 100%.

To day with the disposal of AUSA funds the wrecked irrigation canals and the lands shall return to their intensive productive cycle.











1946

1947

The reasons for such a disaster are to be attributed to :

- 1) - The as yet non executed mountain adjustment of the river (plan already envisaged);
- 2) - The mistaken valley adjustment undertaken at the time, which didn't take the river's very swift current into due account;
- 3) - The absence of river bank maintenance during the war.
- 4) - The complete upsetting of the hydrographic regime of the area due to the Allies indiscriminate cutting down of woods in the Sila area.









1946



The problem was to be met and resolved on a national plan basis if one cared to save and return to production one of the largest land estates in Calabria and which - being owned by the State - only aims at producing more and to give work and life to the abandoned calabrian populations.

1947











1946

1947

The Government - timely urged by the Company - allotted the amount of 150.000.000 lire in favour of the Consorzio di Bonifica to rebuild the Neto river's banks.

Works begun in 1946 have now been completed.











1946

1947

# WORKS ON THE RIVER NETO.

Works undertaken on the river Neto concern the defence and refitting of the banks which had been ruined by the corrosion of the high river tides of the past years.

These works consist of longitudinal frontal defences made up of mixed wood and stone structures, laid down along the old courses, whereby refitting the bank continuity the raised grounds are protected and held - towards water - by a double row of wooden poles, mechanically fitted and filled for the purpose with stonecrush contained in a metallic netting webbed to the poles.









1946

1947

The system is completed by a series of brushes of identical structure, of the type against current, unsubmergeable at the basis and duly distanced so as to limit the effects of the river whirl which is formed during the river's high level.

By this system it is intended to obtain:

- 1) - the reconstitution of a golenal band between the brushes near the embankment;
- 2) - the displacement of the river current towards the axis of the water flow;
- 3) - an appreciable decrease in flood speed at the bank with consequent elimination of the danger of corrosion.









1946

1947

The adopted system is the most economic because it avoids having to recur to expensive wall constructions. It can and must be adopted for all impetuous rivers of Calabria and Southern Italy.

As far as we are concerned river courses have been closed to the length of Km. 5.500, 11.400 poles have been fixed; 11.560 cubic metres of stone crush have been elaborated and 40.000 cubic metres of bank material have been reconstituted.









One of the inspections of Engineer M. Visentini, President of the Superior Council of Public Works attending the works on the banks of the river Neto.

The plan for the adjustment of the mountain basin of the river and its tributaries has been layed out.

UNRRA - on request of the Company - interviened and hygienically reclaimed all the area.









1946

1947

# IRRIGATION CANAL.

## Setting up of water point.

The water point gives a jet of 15 mc.to the second.

In 1945 it was found completely obstructed.









1946

1947

IRRIGATION CANAL.

Moderating canal.

Length 33 metres - Width 13,50 metres.

Provided with a water intake twenty metres long and with a discharging emplacement with two lights of 1 metre each to eliminate residue deposits.









1946

IRRIGATION CANAL.

Loading canal. - In 1945 it was found completely filled with earth.

Length 2354 metres was built to irrigate the lands and to feed a power station capable of producing 2620 nominal HP with a jump of 13,10 metres.



1947







Details on removal of earth of one of the largest irrigation canals in Italy, a source of richness, is one of the bitter aspects of the abandonment to which land reclaiming works in Southern Italy were left during the war, without any maintenance.







1946

1947

# IRRIGATION CANAL.

## Loading canal.

To clean the canal in 1947 the following materials were extracted:

23.000 cubic metres of earth with  
7.700 working days.

Cost: Lire 8.000.000.=.







1946

1947

# IRRIGATION CANAL.

## Loading canal.

The canal - even if of minor section - runs through the whole estate, (15 Km), and is in condition to irrigate 20.000 acres (at present it irrigates only 600).









1946

Principal collector of low waters.

Works undertaken in 1947 by the Company with the State's subsidy.

Cost: Lire 1.000.000 - 2.000 working days,  
6.000 cubic metres of earth displacement.

The adjacent grounds were immediately dried.



1947







The Company intends above all to raise the social conditions of its dependents.

In an area where illiterature amounts to 62% the Company has created :

2 rural schools  
1 school of apprenticeship

Foreseen : 1 rural school  
1 evening class school

In 1947 the peasants at last received electric lighting.

A medical ambulatory is foreseen - a cereal store - a church and recreation ground.

The land is reclaimed. Malaria is defeated. The Company addressed itself to AUSA with confidence asking for help in the transformation of rich lands, upset by the numerous floods of the river Neto.

The present 3.000 tons. produced can easily be brought up to 11.000 tons. with a stable labour employment of 67.080 labour days.

AUSA understood and has recently intervened with that high sense of comprehension which honours the practical sense of the Americans.

The works are under technical planning and have partly begun.





# PLANIMETRY







# S. A. BENI RUSTICI CROTONESI

## PLANIMETRIA DELL'AZIENDA

ALLEGATO









